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# USDA/1890 National Scholars Program

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A partnership between the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Seventeen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Institutions

### USDA/1890 National Scholars application check list

- ☐ SECTION I. I have read this section, especially those elements detailing the eligibility requirements, schools that I must attend, and the January 15 deadline in which all applications materials must be postmarked.
  
- ☐ SECTION II. I have read and filled out Section II, Student Self-Assessment section. I understand Section II must be postmarked no later than January 15, in order to meet the eligibility requirements.
  
- ☐ SECTION III. I have given Section III to my principal/teacher to fill out. I understand this section must be postmarked no later than January 15. Further, I have explained to my principal/teacher the need to have all transcripts enclosed with this response and sent to the college/university's USDA Liaison Officer's office, I have selected to attend. (See address p. 10)

Revised November 1993

# USDA/1890 National Scholars Program in the Agricultural, Food, and Natural Resource Sciences

The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program will provide full tuition, employment, employee benefits, fees, books, use of a personal computer and software while on scholarship and room and board each year for 4 years for students pursuing a bachelor's degree at the following universities or colleges:

- Alabama A&M University
- Alcorn State University, Mississippi
- University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff
- Delaware State University
- Florida A&M University
- Fort Valley State University, Georgia
- Kentucky State University
- Langston University, Oklahoma
- Lincoln University, Missouri
- University of Maryland, Eastern Shore
- North Carolina A&T University
- Prairie View A&M University, Texas
- South Carolina State University
- Southern University, Louisiana
- Tennessee State University
- Tuskegee University, Alabama
- Virginia State University

## Purpose

The purpose of the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is:

- to strengthen the long-term partnership between USDA and the 1890 Institutions
- to increase the number of students studying agriculture, food, and natural resource sciences
- to offer career opportunities to USDA/1890 National Scholars at the U.S. Department of Agriculture

## Objective

The National Scholars Program offers scholarships to U.S. citizens who are seeking a bachelor's degree at one of the seventeen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Institutions in any field of study in agriculture, food, or natural resource sciences. National Scholars are required to study in the following or related disciplines:

- Agriculture
- Agricultural Business/Management
- Agricultural Economics
- Agricultural Engineering/Mechanics
- Agricultural Production and Technology
- Agronomy or Crop Science
- Animal Sciences
- Botany

- Farm and Range Management
- Fish, Game, or Wildlife Management
- Food Sciences/Technology
- Home Economics/Nutrition/Human Development
- Forestry and Related Sciences
- Horticulture
- Natural Resources Management
- Soil Conservation/Soil Science
- Other related disciplines, (e.g., biological sciences, pre-veterinary medicine, computer science)

## **The Award**

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Thirty-four or more scholarships are awarded annually which must be used at one of the seventeen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Institutions. Each award provides annual tuition, employment, employee benefits, use of a personal computer and software while on scholarship, fees, books, room and board for each of the 4 academic years, plus a requirement to work in the Cooperative Education Program. Upon completion of the scholar's academic degree program, there is an obligation of 1 year of service to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for each year of financial support. Each annual scholarship renewal is contingent upon satisfactory performance and normal progress toward the bachelor's degree.

## **Who may apply and how to apply**

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Applicants must be U.S. citizens who have a high school diploma or a G.E.D. certificate and are starting their first year of college for a bachelor's degree. (Note: Since this program is intended to increase the number of students studying agriculture, food, or natural resource sciences at participating institutions, currently enrolled bachelor's level students in these institutions are not eligible to apply.)

## **Application Deadline**

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All application materials must be postmarked no later than January 15 and sent to the college or university selected by the applicant to attend.

## **General eligibility**

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Applications must:

- Submit all application materials by January 15
- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be an entering freshman
- Hold a high school diploma or G.E.D. certificate
- Have a high school GPA of 3.0 or better
- Have a combined verbal/math score of 1,000 or more on the SAT or a composite score of 21 or more on the ACT
- Attend one of the seventeen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Institutions listed
- Study agriculture, food, or natural resource sciences
- Demonstrate leadership, community service, and potential to be successful

## Supporting Information for the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program

### Privacy Act Advisory Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with this request for information. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements for the Act, please be advised:

1. The authority for the collection of these data is Executive Order 11155.
2. Furnishing the information requested is voluntary.
3. The data will be used for selection of USDA/1890 National Scholars, printing of certificates, and related activities.
4. Other routine uses of the data are for preparation of the public affairs and press releases to news media.
5. Failure to complete the form will mean that you cannot be included among those candidates being considered for designation as USDA/1890 National Scholar.

### Affirmation of Candidacy and Authorization for Release of Information

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand that I am a candidate for the honor of USDA/1890 National Scholar, have read the Privacy Act Advisory Statement, and affirm my wish to be considered. In the event I am named a National Scholar, permission is hereby given for the release of materials submitted by me for the use of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the seventeen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Institutions as may be deemed appropriate for purposes of the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program. I further consent to the release of photographs which may be taken of me, by or for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in connection with the Program. I am (check one) willing \_\_\_\_\_ unwilling \_\_\_\_\_ to appear on radio and/or television if such arrangements can be made by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in connection with the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-5881 (voice) or (202) 720-7808 (TDD).

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720- 1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.



3. List any advanced or special program, courses or summer courses you have taken. List the most recent course or program first.

Course of program	Name of school	Location (city and state)	Dates of attendance	Hours per week

4. Name of first-choice college or university \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Name of second-choice college or university \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

5. What course of study (major) will you pursue? (You may indicate more than one. List in priority order)

1st \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd \_\_\_\_\_

6. Have you applied to other institutions? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ If yes, please list below:

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you plan to go to graduate or professional school? \_\_\_\_ If yes, specify \_\_\_\_\_

8. Have you made any career decision? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, specify \_\_\_\_\_

C

Your Activities and Work Experience

1. List activities in which you have participated in your **school** (such as academic, publications, debating, dramatics, sports, music, art, student government, and clubs). Place an "X" in front of those activities you consider most important.

Activity	Dates of participation	Hours per week	Offices held	Special awards or honors

2. List any **special talents** (such as music, art, or sports) that you pursue outside of school.

Talent or activity	Periods of participation	Special honors, recognition, or awards

3. List **community activities** in which you have participated without pay (such as candy striping, religious work, drug hotlines, and outreach programs).

Kind of work	Name of agency or organization	Dates of participation	Hours per week	Special awards

4. List **jobs** (including summer employment) you have held in the past 3 or 4 years.

Job and kind of work	Employer	Check one:		Approximate dates of employment	Approximate number of hours per week
		Summer	School year		

Note: Be concise. Limit your answers to the space provided.

## **D. Leisure-Time Activities**

1. What is the most stimulating book or article (other than those for school assignments) you have read in the last 6 months? Why did you find it stimulating?
2. What do you do for relaxation and fun?
3. Describe your leadership role in activities in both your school and community. What qualities of yours distinguish you as a leader?
4. Please describe any characteristics of yourself or your family that have been important to your personal development.

## **E. Candidate's Self-Assessment**

1. Describe a recent experience that has given you a sense of satisfaction or pride. Explain why you were satisfied or proud.
2. Briefly discuss why you want to study agricultural, food, or natural resource sciences in college.

Please review this form to make sure you have answered all questions completely. Proofread your responses.

I certify that I completed this application and that all statements made are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.  
(A false statement could eliminate me from consideration for this scholarship.)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## USDA/1890 Institutions

USDA Liaison Officer  
USDA/1890 National Scholars Program  
Alabama A&M University  
School of Agricultural &  
Environmental Sciences  
Room 300, Dawson Bldg. or  
P.O. Box 1477  
Normal, AL 35762

USDA Liaison Officer  
USDA/1890 National Scholars Program  
Alcorn State University  
1000 ASU Drive, #1139  
104 Agriculture Science Bldg.  
Lorman, MS 39096

USDA Liaison Officer  
USDA/1890 National Scholars Program  
Delaware State University  
Dept. of Agriculture & Natural Resources  
1200 N. Dupont Highway  
Dover, DE 19901

USDA Liaison Officer  
USDA/1890 National Scholars Program  
Florida A&M University  
P.O. Box 338  
Tallahassee, FL 32307-4100

USDA Liaison Officer  
USDA/1890 National Scholars Program  
Fort Valley State University  
Agricultural Research Station  
1005 State College Drive  
Fort Valley, Georgia 31030-3298

USDA Liaison Officer  
USDA/1890 National Scholars Program  
Kentucky State University  
Atwood Research Facility  
Frankfort, KY 40601

USDA Liaison Officer  
USDA/1890 National Scholars Program  
Langston University  
Calvin Hall Small Business  
Development Center  
Room 102  
Langston, OK 73050

USDA Liaison Officer  
USDA/1890 National Scholars Program  
Lincoln University  
820 Chestnut Street  
111 Allen Hall  
Jefferson City, MO 65101-0029

USDA Liaison Officer  
USDA/1890 National Scholars Program  
North Carolina A&T State University  
107 B.C. Webb Hall  
Greensboro, NC 27411

USDA Liaison Officer  
USDA/1890 National Scholars Program  
Prairie View A&M University  
P.O. Box 2736  
Prairie View, TX 77446-2736

USDA Liaison Officer  
USDA/1890 National Scholars Program  
South Carolina State University  
P.O. Box 7246  
Orangeburg, SC 29117-0001

USDA Liaison Officer  
USDA/1890 National Scholars Program  
Southern University  
P.O. Box 54051  
Baton Rouge, LA 70892

USDA Liaison Officer  
USDA/1890 National Scholars Program  
Tennessee State University  
3500 John Merritt Blvd.  
Nashville, TN 37209-1561

USDA Liaison Officer  
USDA/1890 National Scholars Program  
Tuskegee University  
College of Agricultural, Environmental &  
Natural Sciences  
Campbell Hall, Room 103  
Tuskegee, AL 36088

USDA Liaison Officer  
USDA/1890 National Scholars Program  
University of Arkansas Pine-Bluff  
P.O. Box 4806, UPBA  
1200 North University  
Pine Bluff, AR 71601-2799

USDA Liaison Officer  
USDA/1890 National Scholars Program  
University of Maryland-Eastern Shore  
1139 Trigg Hall  
Princess Anne, MD 21853

USDA Liaison Officer  
USDA/1890 National Scholars Program  
Virginia State University  
P.O. Box 9081  
Owens Hall, Room 100  
Petersburg, VA 23806

## USDA/1890 National Scholars Program Secondary School Report

Legal name of student \_\_\_\_\_

*Please type or print using black ink*

*Last*

*First*

*Middle*

To comply with the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, a school must obtain signed authorization before it can release student information for use in this scholarship program.

Permission is hereby given to school officials to release school record and other requested information for consideration in the scholarship program named above.

Student's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's or legal guardian's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

If you have attended this school less than 2 years, you may copy this form and ask someone from your former school to also complete a copy for you.

School \_\_\_\_\_

*Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*State*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Zip code*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Telephone*

### **Note for the principal:**

The student named above is a candidate for the honor of United States Department of Agriculture/1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Institutions National Scholar. To process this application, we need the following: a carefully considered character and ability assessment by a teacher who knows the student well, a summary of teachers' judgements of the student, and a **transcript of the student's secondary school record**. **Thorough responses will greatly enhance your student's candidacy.** This information will be used only in connection with the selection of Scholars and will be seen only by qualified persons involved in the selection process.

This report form should be completed as fully as possible (**DO NOT INCLUDE ATTACHMENTS AS A REPLACEMENT FOR THIS FORM**) and signed at the bottom of SECTION III-R by the evaluator and the principal. **Please type or print, using black ink. This form must be returned POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JANUARY 15.**

**A.**

Name of principal \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please type or print using black ink*                      *Last*                      *First*                      *Middle*

**B.**

Are you confident that the student will receive a high school diploma during the current academic year?    ☐ Yes    ☐ No

If no, please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

**C.**

Student's class rank \_\_\_\_\_ How many students in the class? \_\_\_\_\_

**D.**

Student's grade point average \_\_\_\_\_ This GPA is based on \_\_\_\_\_ semesters.

**E.**

ACT Composite Score \_\_\_\_\_ SAT Combined Score \_\_\_\_\_

**F.**

Who is evaluating the student on the following pages?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to student \_\_\_\_\_  
*Principal, Teacher, Counselor*

Length of relationship \_\_\_\_\_ If teacher, please state \_\_\_\_\_ subject(s)

**G.**

What is the population of the community in which your school is located?

☐ Less than 500                      ☐ 500-1,499                      ☐ 1,500-4,999                      ☐ 5,000-24,999                      ☐ 25,000-99,999                      ☐ Over 100,000

In items H-O, please be concise. Use examples to support your comments. Limit your response to the space provided.

H.

What economic or social conditions characterize your community and most of the parents of the children in your school? (For example, is your community a university town, a mill town, or a farming area?)

I.

Considering this student's interests, work habits, and life goals, what is your assessment of the chances that the student will be motivated to take advantage of the opportunities available in college? Please give reasons for your assessment.

J.

What special features are a part of your school's curriculum (e.g., AP and honors courses, college study, independent study)? Has the student taken advantage of the most challenging opportunities your school has to offer?

K.

Has this student given any strong evidence of leadership ability? ☐ Yes ☐ No Please explain the criteria on which you base your judgement and how the student meets those criteria.

L.

Describe how this student demonstrates strong character (e.g., integrity, independence, loyalty, patriotism, self-discipline, willingness to work hard, kindness, commitment to high ideals, and caring for others).

**M.**

Has the student shown exceptional talent or originality in any specific field such as art, music, science, literature, or mathematics? ☐ Yes ☐ No  
Please cite examples.

**N.**

What is the student's principal strength?

**O.**

What is the student's principal weakness?

**P.**

Sometimes special circumstances should be considered when evaluating a student's achievement record and test scores. If, in your opinion, this student may have been disadvantaged by any such circumstances, please specify.

## Q

In the spaces below, please summarize comments made by teachers about the student:

1. **Participation in discussion**

- ☐ always involved, often initiates discussion
- ☐ occasionally participates
- ☐ seldom participates
- ☐ not applicable

2. **Involvement in classroom activities**

- ☐ active, usually shows genuine interest
- ☐ mild, politely attentive
- ☐ languid, attention often wanders
- ☐ vacillates greatly
- ☐ poor understanding

3. **Pursuit of independent study**

- ☐ considerable study and major project(s)
- ☐ some study and minor project(s)
- ☐ no evidence of independent study
- ☐ not applicable

4. **Evenness of performance**

- ☐ even, varies no more than one mark
- ☐ slightly uneven, often varies one mark
- ☐ uneven, often varies two marks
- ☐ erratic, performance fluctuates greatly
- ☐ inadequate opportunity to observe

5. **Critical and questioning attitude**

- ☐ often challenges
- ☐ occasionally probes
- ☐ rarely questions
- ☐ not applicable

6. **Depth of understanding**

- ☐ excellent insight
- ☐ good understanding
- ☐ some insight
- ☐ little insight
- ☐ not applicable

7. **Personal responsibility**

- ☐ always accepts fully
- ☐ usually accepts fully
- ☐ sometimes refuses
- ☐ often refuses

8. **Consideration for others**

- ☐ always considerate of others' rights and feelings
- ☐ usually considerate
- ☐ sometimes inconsiderate
- ☐ often inconsiderate

## R. Secondary School Record

Note: Please attach a copy of the student's secondary school transcript, including grades 9 through 12. If the transcript is not provided, the candidate will be placed at a disadvantage in relation to other candidates.

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*Date*


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*Evaluator's signature*


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*Title*


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*Date*


---

*Evaluator's signature*


---

*Title*

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Frankfort, KY 40601

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